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means for processing electronically said tax data collected from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and

D 1 means for preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

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26. (Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for collecting tax data, said computer program comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically an electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;

collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider;

processing electronically said tax data collected from said tax data provider to obtain

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processed tax data; and

preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

27. (Amended) An apparatus for receiving information on a tax data provider comprising:

means for connecting electronically an electronic intermediary to a taxpayer; and

means for receiving electronically information on at least one tax data provider from said taxpayer.

34. (Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for receiving information on a tax data provider, said computer program comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically an electronic intermediary to a taxpayer; and

receiving electronically information on at least one tax data provider from said taxpayer.

37. (Amended) An apparatus for providing tax data comprising:
means for connecting electronically a tax data provider to an electronic intermediary; and
means for providing electronically tax data from said tax data provider to said electronic intermediary.

38. (Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for providing tax data, said computer program comprising code segments for:
connecting electronically a tax data provider to an electronic intermediary; and
providing electronically tax data from said tax data provider to said electronic intermediary.

39. (Amended) An apparatus for providing information on a tax data provider comprising:
means for connecting electronically a taxpayer to an electronic intermediary; and
means for providing electronically information on at least one tax data provider from said taxpayer to said electronic intermediary.

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50. (Twice Amended) A method for automatic tax data collecting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

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connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is reported on an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), state, local, or foreign tax form;

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DS processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider

to obtain processed tax data; and

preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.
